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Reagan Team Says Arms Agency Neglects Its Surveillance Function

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 — President-elect Ronald Reagan's transition team at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has concluded that the agency in recent years has spent too much money promoting new accords with Moscow while neglecting intelligence work on possible Soviet violations of existing agreements.

The team's conclusions were contained in a private report, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, that was sent to Mr. Reagan's transition headquarters yesterday. The report says that the transition team has found "key management problems" in the agency and that the group is studying a proposal for reducing the size of the agency and incorporating it into the State Department.

'Jumble' at State Department

At the same time, the transition team at the State Department, in its report to Mr. Reagan's headquarters, says that the department is "a bureaucratic jumble" and that it is proposing a plan to give the White House greater control over the selection of career Foreign Service officers for top jobs.

Although both transition teams have been told to focus mainly on administrative and budgetary issues, the Arms Control Agency and State Department reports also focus on a number of policy questions. For example, discussing "Soviet negotiating strategy," the arms control report says:

"The team has obtained hard data

which seem to suggest that although the Soviets have in fact made minor concessions to the United States to limit their defense programs, these concessions have been carefully coordinated to achieve larger Soviet political objectives such as creating friction among NATO allies and lulling American public opinion into a sense of complacency."

The report, however, does not take an entirely negative attitude in discussing the need for new arms talks with Moscow. "Some data," it says, "suggest that without new proposals and an effort to continue at least some elements of the SALT I and SALT II agreements, the Soviets have certain specific options to accelerate their strategic programs in a manner that will make it even more difficult for our defense program to match their extensive buildup."

The report was prepared by James L. Malone, the arms control transition leader and a former general counsel at the agency.

The State Department report, assembled by Robert G. Neumann, the transition team leader and a former ambassador to Afghanistan and Morocco, suggests several policy and organizational changes. Included are such things as upgrading policy planning. The report says that conversations with State Department officials "made it clear" that the 30-member Policy Planning Staff in the department "does not now conduct policy planning," and asserts that "that seemed to us a rather startling admission."